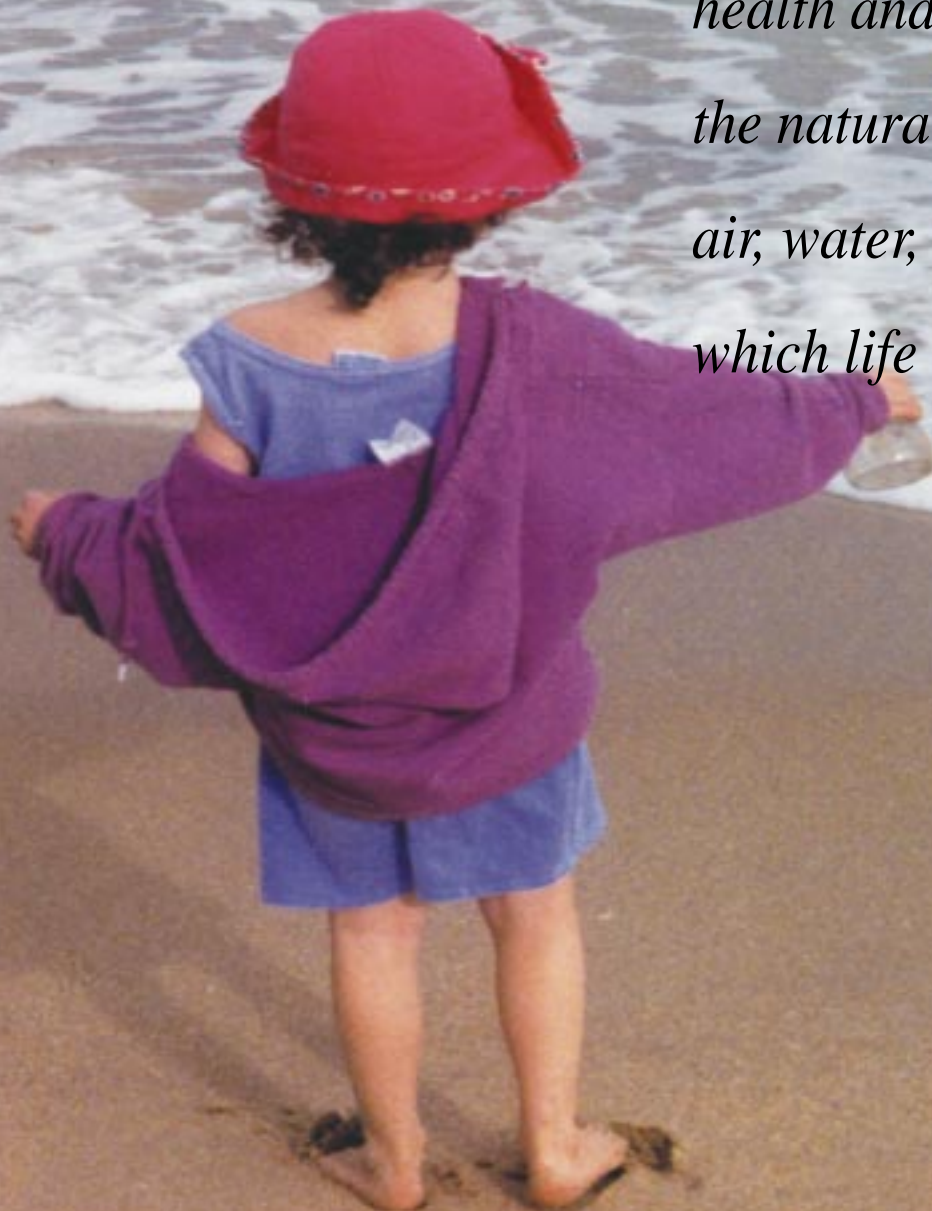




EPA STRATEGIC PLAN

*The Mission of the
Environmental Protection
Agency is to protect human
health and to safeguard
the natural environment--
air, water, and land--upon
which life depends*



Message from the Administrator

I am proud to present the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan, which charts the Agency's course for protecting human health and the environment. Developed with input from EPA's senior leadership and employees -- as well as from environmental stakeholders -- this Plan describes the Agency's goals and objectives and discusses strategies for achieving them in the years ahead.

As we approach the 21st Century, EPA is determined to build on the great strides we have made in controlling pollution and reducing risks to human health and the environment -- and doing so in ways that provide for the nation's continued economic progress. We will constantly seek innovative measures and approaches to ensure that all Americans have air that is safe to breathe, water that is clean and safe to drink, food that is free from dangerous pesticide residues, and communities that are free of toxic wastes.

In addition, this Strategic Plan emphasizes EPA's commitment to give an added measure of protection to America's children, who are often among the most vulnerable to environmental health threats.

I look forward to working with all of EPA's partners as we pursue the goals laid out in this Plan. Together, we can take the common-sense, cost-effective steps we need to protect our health and our communities, and to pass on a safe, healthy world to future generations.



Carol M. Browner, Administrator

EPA Strategic Plan



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington D.C. 20460

September 1997



Foreword

“It is time for EPA to link its budget to clear policy goals and measurable environmental results. Only then will we be able to tell the public what we are going to do to protect communities’ health and the environment, how we will do it, how much it will cost, and when we will deliver results.”

EPA Planning Committee Report, September 11, 1995

In 1995, EPA embarked on a far-reaching effort to change fundamental approaches to planning, budgeting, analysis, and accountability. The purpose of this venture is fourfold:

- (1) To develop a clearly articulated mission and a set of goals and objectives for accomplishing the mission as well as a set of guiding principles by which these goals can be translated into our day-to-day activities and programs.
- (2) To make better use of scientific information related to human health and environmental risks in setting priorities.
- (3) To improve the link between long-term, outcome-based, customer-focused, environmental planning and yearly resource allocation.
- (4) To develop a new management system that allows EPA’s leadership and the American public to assess our accomplishments accurately and provide useful feedback for making future decisions.

While this effort will take several years for EPA to accomplish fully, our approach is to make real progress where we can in the short term, while we build for the future. With the completion of this Strategic Plan, the Agency has taken a major step forward in this process.

Purpose of the Plan

This strategic plan is a blueprint for taking EPA into the 21st Century and achieving critical human health and environmental protections for the American people over the next five years. As required under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), it describes EPA’s mission and ten broad goals that will serve as the framework for the Agency’s planning and resource allocation decisions. It also lays out guiding principles that will guide EPA employees on a day-to-day basis as we work towards achieving our goals.

EPA’s strategic plan is a dynamic and flexible document. Adjustments and changes in direction are inevitable as we move forward over time with the many complex and varied problems we are seeking to address. EPA will revise this plan within the next three years. However, new information from our customers and the scientific community will be factored into the Agency’s planning process annually. This strategic plan will be a sound and strong base from which to focus on the highest priority environmental issues and assure effective use of taxpayer dollars. With the development of this strategic plan, we now have the framework to use in building for the future and in making EPA as effective as possible in meeting the needs of our customers—the American people.



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